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Wilson's Currency Leadership.

The vote in the Senate does not measure the real attitude of the country toward the new currency law. The public does not regard the bill as a partisan measure, but accepts it as the best that could be obtained under all the circumstances, when due allowance is made for the jealousies of sectionalism and the prejudices and unwholesome doctrines of the past which have not been wholly lived down.

It has taken nearly twenty years of agitation to make the adoption of a new financial system possible. Slowly the idea has taken shape. At first the notion prevailed that a mere change in the currency such as would adapt it to meet emergencies would be sufficient. The panic of 1907 brought home a sense of the seriousness of the problem, but it found the nation so unprepared for action that only a futile "emergency" law could be passed. The service done by ex-Senator Aldrich and the Monetary Commission, of which he was head, lay in convincing the public that the problem before it was more a banking than a currency problem. Upon their work the Democratic party has builded the present law.

The Democratic plan is the Aldrich plan modified to suit the temper of the country. And of the need of abandoning the extreme position in favor of a central banking institution the action of the Republican minority in declaring for regional institutions was significant.

The Democratic party has drawn steadily nearer to sound finance, until in the last hours of the Senate debate and in conference defects in the administration bill which Senator Root pointed out were cured. President Wilson has brought his party out of the wilderness of Bryanism. It has been a great exhibition of leadership.

Conference, Not Caucus.

The suggestion of the Independent Assemblymen who have been meeting together discussing the work of the coming session that a general conference precede, if not actually displace, the party caucuses for nomination of candidates for Speaker is an excellent one. The choice of a Speaker this year especially is too important to be foreclosed by sharp electioneering or by the clever tricks of a machine. It is due to the Assemblymen, and due to the public, that there should be a full discussion of the candidates' qualifications in a conference which is not binding upon those who take part in it. Then if the party members desire afterward to enter their party caucuses and abide by the results, they may do it with adequate information.

The caucus, along with the other slightly worn devices of the old-fashioned politics, has not been of great service at Albany since a few recalcitrant Democrats flouted Mr. Sheehan, and "Boss" Murphy and defeated Mr. Kibben. Its best work is to enable a number of men to beat into line, somehow, those whom their arguments cannot convert to their views. It isn't a highly American institution or a very enlightened one. Its use in this special year of progressive professions would be an anachronism.

Mr. Mann Overplays His Hand.

The Hon. James R. Mann is carrying to an extreme these days the theory that it is the business of an opposition leader to oppose. Even in the business of harassing the majority and putting it thoroughly on record on all issues that come up in legislation there ought to be room for the exercise of discretion and moderation.

Mr. Mann laid himself open to the charge of extravagance in language when he said on Monday, opposing the adoption of the currency bill conference report:

You [the Democrats] staked your chances on the tariff and failed. You now take another chance by inflating the currency, and this has never worked at any time.

Nine people out of ten believe that the new currency bill is a long step toward the establishment of a rational banking system. If this belief is well founded and Mr. Mann's assertion that hard times are ahead of us because of the downward revision of the tariff is also well founded, would it not be more sensible on his part to welcome a change in the currency system which will strengthen the banks in dealing with panic conditions? Under the old system the first sign of panic made every bank a panic breeder. Each institution tried to protect itself at the expense of its associates. Under the new law all banking resources will be pooled and the banks will stand together to maintain credit.

One-third of the Republicans in the House broke away from Mr. Mann's leadership and voted for the conference report. That fact alone would indicate that the minority leader is suffering from a tendency to overdo the opposition business.

The Penitentiary Investigation.

Stories of conditions at the Blackwell Island penitentiary brought out by the District Attorney's investigation seem almost incredible in this year of grace and agitation for prison reform. Prisoners beaten by keepers—not in isolated cases, but apparently frequently—dark cells and the "icebox," solitary confinement, favors for those with cash or "pull," all go to make up a penitentiary exactly as it should not be.

One trouble with the penitentiary, of course, is that it has been an inconspicuous part of a big department and its posts have been gradually filled up with political henchmen. Inevitably that has produced mismanagement, and from mismanagement and lack of intelligence on the part of the keepers and warden to brutality is a short step.

But the real trouble with this institution is the trouble with most of the other penitentiaries and county jails in the state—yes, and even the state prisons. They are considered by all to be mere punishment machines, not reformatories. When this medieval idea is pushed out of the minds of men prisoners in penitentiary and state prison will have a chance of emerging prepared to live decent lives, not to sink into worse crime than that which sent them there. If this investigation of Blackwell's Island hastens that it will be worth much.

Mr. Bryan's Terrible Troubles.

One of the saddest episodes that have come to our attention is the effort of our esteemed contemporary "The Sartorial Art Journal" to treat respectfully and earnestly of Mr. Bryan's clothes. His coat, cravat and overcoat it finds not unworthy. There are distinction and character in them and evidence of "first class workmanship."

But the trousers! Before them this willing sartorial artist falls in agony on the floor. He strives to say something polite of these crinkled members of the Bryan costume. And the best he can do is to call them "tubular concertinas!"

Any one can understand this grief on the part of a sartorial artist. But in his very anguish there is a thought expressed which will bring some compensation to every plain American. If the "apparel of the man," exclaims this writer, and if "the Great Commoner had paid more heed to this country's 'might have been very greatly changed.' In short, if Mr. Bryan had had his trousers pressed he might now be President!

Viewed in this light Mr. Bryan's "tubular concertinas" take rank among the nation's dearest benefactors.

The Secret Woman.

The village is always rolling its eyes with horror at the vice of the city. And those dwellers in the city who come from the country—a very large proportion, by the way—are prompt to accuse the small community of every form of secret wickedness. Latest in evidence in the controversy stands the little hill village of Monticello, with its secret woman, who might much better have stepped out of Balzac or Mrs. Wharton than from the back room of a country lawyer's office.

The utter impossibility of doing what was here done easily enough is what first slaps one in the face. In a large city, yes. Nobody knows or cares about one's neighbors there. The queer and peculiar is the expected. But on a small main street, in an office building that held only a dozen or so offices, with all the curiosity and gossip that buzz about a small town, the concealment of a woman being for three years seems utterly beyond reason.

Out of this extraordinary quality of the thing one gets a sense of the extraordinary emotions involved. The man may be permitted to rest in silence. The devotion of the woman, that imprisoned her as effectually as if she were behind prison bars, is colossal enough to stand in the memory. For the man she chose she gave up the whole visible world, sky and streets and human beings.

Monticello is not in the fiction belt. Perhaps that is why it is so overflows with human nature, the best and the worst hopelessly tangled up together.

Why John Skelton Williams?

Why is it considered essential to the success of the new scheme of federal banking that John Skelton Williams should be appointed Controller of the Currency and thus made a member of the Federal Reserve Board? Mr. Williams's activities as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury have not been of the sort to inspire confidence in his official judgment or his personal discretion. The mysteries of the advance from the Treasury of \$1,000,000, used in helping the Munsey Trust Company, of Washington, to absorb the United States Trust Company, of the same city, are still unexplained. Until they are it would not be advisable to transfer Mr. Williams from his present post to one of vastly greater power and of more than doubled salary.

It is a negative handicap for a high Treasury official to have a brother actively engaged in the banking business in Washington and cities near Washington. It is a decidedly active handicap to have that brother a director in an institution which appears to have benefited by Treasury favoritism. When these handicaps are removed it will be time enough to think of giving Mr. Williams a larger share in the execution of the administration's financial policies.

A Ban on the "White Slave" Films.

On the theory that moving pictures should be diluted to the quality of the younger members of their audiences, which is the only excuse for the existence of the national board of film censors, that body's action in voting against the "white slave" films was amply justified. The producers of these pictures are planning a big campaign for them and are already counting their profits. The pictures will be exhibited, if they are not banned, to people of both sexes, old and young. Possibilities of good in such exhibition of pictures which at the best are not precisely a scientific study of the subject seem to be more than overbalanced by the possibilities of evil in a one-sided, sensational, profit-seeking display to audiences of the young.

It is the tendency of this investigating publicity-using age to employ newspapers, magazines, the theatre and the "movies" in letting light into dark places. That is right and proper, if the limitations and dangers attendant on the use of each agency be kept in mind. The limitations on the usefulness of moving picture theatres as places for lessons on prostitution are obvious.

Slippery Shoes and Slippery Streets.

Man's inhumanity to his best animal friend is bad enough the year round, but with the oncoming of winter it becomes intolerable. Cold rain, sleet, frost, ice, all make our pavements things of terror to the horse and even more so to the considerate driver. When in addition the asphalt or wood block—there is no choice between them—is liberally coated with automobile oil, the condition is appalling. The late Mr. Callahan once hung before his Vesey street store a big red and white sign denouncing the slippery pavement song in language that made a Carabao dancer sound like a litany, and he had cause for it in what he saw from his window every day.

It is idle to say that there is no relief. Pavements can be made smooth but not slippery, and shoes can be made smooth but not slippery. The present neglect is inhuman and wasteful. The lay imposes penalties upon smaller offences than that of sending out upon slippery pavements

horses with shoes of smooth and polished steel, with not so much as a caulk to catch the pavement. It is quite possible that the imposition of a fine for every fallen horse whose shoes were smooth would result in a marked reduction of the number of falls.

Santa Claus might as well abandon his sleigh and do business hereafter in a parcel post wagon.

John Doe, Esq., of New York County, doesn't seem to be a very popular visitor around the executive offices at Albany.

Secretary Daniels will oppose to the limit the introduction of carabao into the transportation service of the Marine Corps.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

It was a busy day in Fulton street. Lines of trucks were backing each other east and west, when out from a produce store came a cat, and dangle from her mouth was a kitten, with which she essayed to cross the street. Each time she started she had to turn back because of a truck, and her efforts soon attracted a crowd of idlers.

Down from the corner came a policeman. He soon saw what was the matter, and while there was nothing in the traffic regulations to cover the point it took the bluecoat only a moment to decide what to do.

Going into the street he raised his hands in the way that truckmen have learned means "Stop." They stopped. The cat, seeing her opportunity, took a firmer hold on the nape of her progeny, and then, holding it high to keep even its curved tail out of the mud, she slowly and deliberately picked her way across and disappeared in a cellar.

Winks—Pretty slick article, Jimson is. Winks—How so?
Winks—When his landlord called around with a dispossession notice he borrowed \$10 of him to move with!—Chicago Daily News.

TO END THE SCRIMMAGE.

Since Huerta will not go, And affairs in Mexico Keep at sixes and at sevens, Why not set them at eights? We've the boys can eat him whole Ere he shall attain his goal— Let our football heroes tackle him! That's the surest way to shackle him!

G. B. M.

Mischa Elman tells a story of his early youth. He was playing at a reception given by a Russian prince, and played Beethoven's "Kreutzer Sonata," which has several long and impressive rests in it. During one of these rests a motherly old lady leaned forward, patted him on the shoulder and said: "Play something you know, dear."—Tit-Bits.

Art has small chance in this work-a-day world. It is said, yet Señor Tovar, from Sunny Spain, has solved the problem. On the first floor, front, of a tenement house the señor has set up his shrine. A sign nailed on the outside wall of the house recites that "Señor Tovar will paint your portrait without sight of all, and will paint a landscape or your portrait on the lady's dress. All work guaranteed satisfactory."

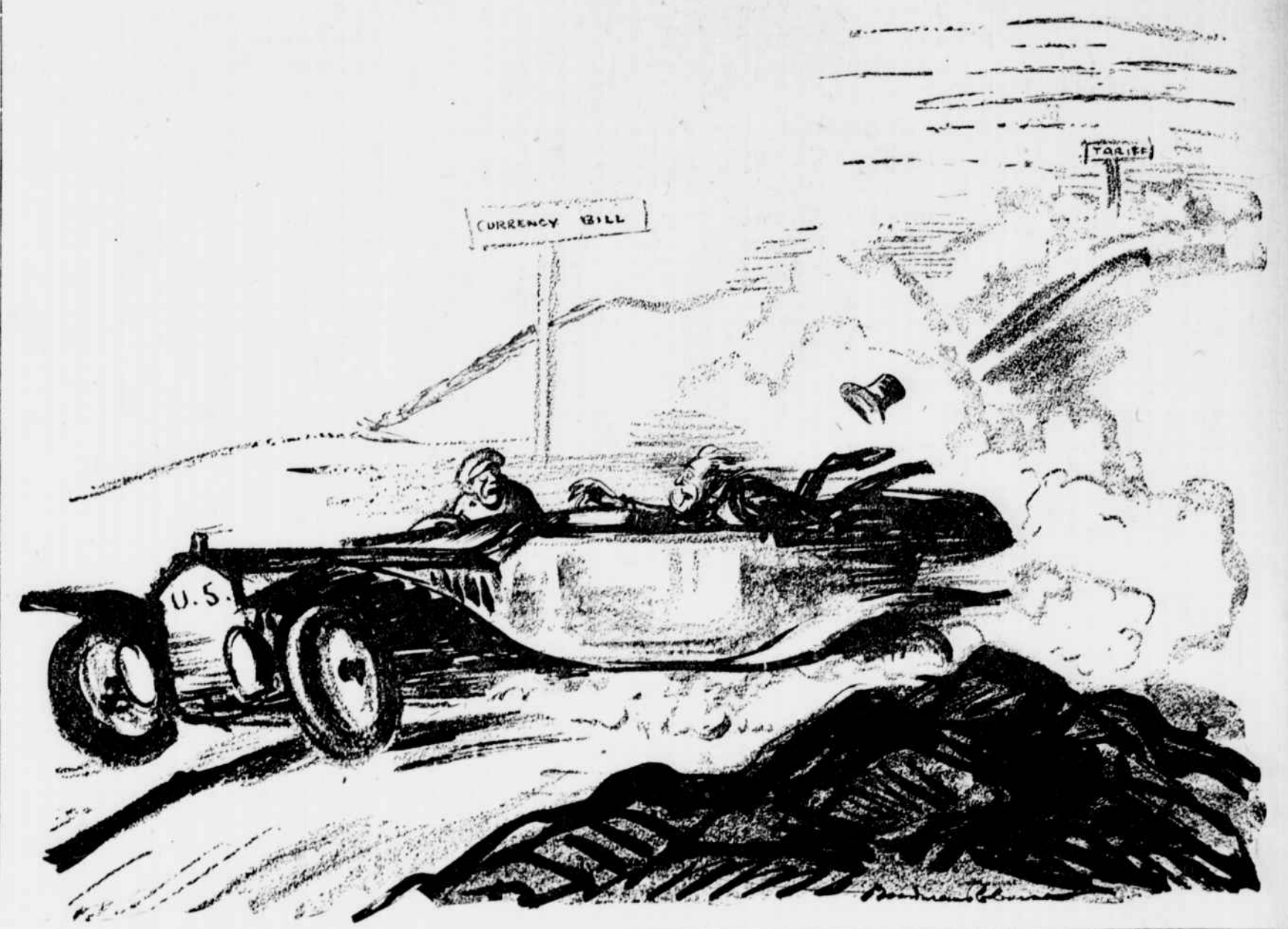
On any fine afternoon Señor Tovar may be seen seated at his easel by the window, in full view from the street. He wields his facile brush and mixes his colors on his palette, apparently absorbed in his work. If the subject of his brush be a human being and an adverse to publicity, Señor Tovar will draw the curtains, shutting out the gaze of the curious, but he prefers doing his work in the open. And the people of the tenements come to Señor Tovar to have their portraits painted.

"I'm puzzled about what to do."
"What's the matter?"
"You can help me as a woman of experience. Is it customary to send Christmas gifts to your former husbands?"—Detroit Free Press.

The World's Welfare Committee of Berlin, which circulates much "peace literature," is dissatisfied with the finding of the Nobel prize jury of award as to the peace prize. A circular issued by the committee gives notice that the person who by reason of his efforts in the direction of universal peace should have received the prize has been overlooked and that a fund has been started for the purpose of creating another peace prize, so that the deserving individual may receive his reward. The circular modestly states that the slighted peace-maker is the president of the protesting committee.

"So you want to marry my daughter? What is your financial standing?"
"Well, sir, I've figured out every exemption possible. I've had the best legal advice that money would secure. I've done everything I could to dodge it—and I still find that I can't entirely escape paying an income tax."
"She's yours."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

UNCLE SAM'S JOY RIDE.



THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

GOVERNOR GLYNN'S QUIBBLE

His Denial of Power to Appoint Mr. Whitman Is Refuted.

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: I have read with much interest Governor Glynn's attack on Judge Whitman in your columns of December 22.

Charges have been made upon the public platform and in the public press of state-wide graft with respect to canal and state road contracts. From the very nature of the crimes alleged to have been committed they cannot successfully be prosecuted in any one county.

Governor Glynn is patently fallacious. His proposition is that he has no power to appoint Judge Whitman as a Deputy Attorney General to conduct this work, and constitution cannot be invoked, as Governor Glynn would pretend, in order that crime and graft may be thwarted under the pretext of home rule in the separate counties of the state. There is no more potent factor to-day in seeking to avoid responsibility in American politics than objection by corrupt officials in certain localities of the state. Certainly Governor Glynn will lose in the esteem of the people of this state if he persists in the attitude which he has taken in the state roads graft scandal.

MATTHEW J. WHEELEHAN,
No. 200 Broadway, New York, Dec. 22, 1913.

He staid that the District Attorney of New York has, with his well organized staff of assistants, I believe that any one of the upstate counties would seriously object to an appropriation to investigate any of these graft matters and would justify its conduct upon the pretence of saving the county extra expense in taxation.

The public will not be deceived by the attitude of Governor Glynn in this matter. The Attorney General of the State of New York, although he has power to investigate all such matters, has been patently inactive in the investigation of state roads graft contracts and has held aloof from any active public participation therein, and it would seem that Governor Glynn has looked upon this attitude of inactivity with approval. The law of inactivity cannot be invoked, as Governor Glynn would pretend, in order that crime and graft may be thwarted under the pretext of home rule in the separate counties of the state. There is no more potent factor to-day in seeking to avoid responsibility in American politics than objection by corrupt officials in certain localities of the state. Certainly Governor Glynn will lose in the esteem of the people of this state if he persists in the attitude which he has taken in the state roads graft scandal.

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CATCHING UP WITH CADMUS

A Simplifier Urges the Need of a Complete Phonetic Alphabet.

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir: Once upon a time language was represented by pictures, hieroglyphics and other primitive means. Along came Cadmus, a crank, who proposed a new method. Said he, "Let's represent words by a visible character to stand invariably for each phonetic sound in the word, and let us place these letters in the spoken word." His proposal has done the world more good than all other proposals combined.

But there are people who have not yet caught up to Cadmus. They want twenty-six letters to do duty for thirty-eight or forty-two sounds. No wonder that English has never become the exclusive world language!

E. D. BRINKERHOFF,
New York, Dec. 21, 1913.

'THE DANGER OF BEING A MAN'

A Reader Urges That the Sources of Hysteria Be Stopped.

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir: Your editorial in to-day's paper headed "The Danger of Being a Man" reminds me of the Scripture, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Although it is about 190 years since that was written, the government openly lets some individuals sow bad seeds among their fellow citizens, and it is only too bad that the seedmen are not the ones that reap the harvest. But bad shows and literature are like the downy seeds of the thistle that are carried into the neighbor's field, where they do their havoc.

I refer to the dime novels, yellow press and moving pictures, where morbid crimes, lurid and silly love affairs are illustrated in detail and thrashed out to the last chaif. Indeed, it is a strong mind that does not get more or less contaminated by the influence of aforesaid mediums. What monkey sees, monkey does; consequently the hysteria you comment on in your editorial.

You ask: "Is it not time for a little less hysteria?" etc. I would ask, "Is it not time to stop sowing hysteria?" even if a few individuals would lose money by it. The community at large would be benefited by not having so large a crop of evils to cope with.

GEORGE W. MOHR,
Jersey City, Dec. 16, 1913.

From a Mad, Mad Wag.

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir: Mr. Smille says he tried "The Wallowing Window Blind" on his dog and the tale pleased. Why shouldn't this classic St. Nicholas doggerel make Smille's dog smile?
J. R.

GOV. GLYNN AND WHITMAN

Executive's Attack on Prosecutor Condemned by the Press.

OBSTRUCTIVE POLITICS.

From The New York World.
If the prosecution of the highway grafters is to be turned into a game of politics "The World" certainly prefers the constructive politics of Mr. Whitman to the obstructive politics of the Governor. If convicting rascals becomes political exploitation merely because it strengthens a Republican aspirant for Governor, New York can stand a great deal of that kind of political exploitation.

A DISADVANTAGE OF PARTISANSHIP.

From The Syracuse Journal.
Governor Glynn's challenge of the sincerity of the purposes of the District Attorney does not necessarily mean that the Executive is opposed to further unpleasant party disclosures if they are justified, but it does indicate that Mr. Glynn will fight to a finish any attempt he believes is being made to "muckrake" the party, even to the point of unwittingly protecting some rascal. Therein lies a great disadvantage of partisanship in a cause that ought to command the service and earnest support of all well meaning citizens, irrespective of party affiliations.

THE VITAL THING.

From The Buffalo Commercial.
The vital thing is to convict the grafters. If Mr. Whitman is in a position to get results he should be given all the assistance that honest men can render him. The Governor ought to uphold the hands of the District Attorney and not endeavor to cast unwarranted aspersions upon his motives. Mr. Glynn is on the wrong track in attempting to belittle the great work that Charles S. Whitman has undertaken, and we are convinced that upon second thought he will see and rectify his mistake. Governor Glynn will add credit to his administration by working with and not against the District Attorney.

GLYNN'S RESPONSIBILITY.

From The Albany Knickerbocker-Press.
"It should not be forgotten that James W. Osborne, Governor Glynn's special commissioner, upon his own admission has been grievously handicapped ever since he began hearings at the Capitol, a month ago. He has not been provided with the machinery necessary to get the facts for a genuine investigation, so his reported complaint to Mr. Whitman that his proceedings were in danger of "blowing up" is not wondered at by those familiar with the situation. . . . Clearly, the man more responsible than anybody else for this failure is Governor Glynn.

WHAT IS THE MOTIVE?

From The New York Times.
Governor Glynn fears that Mr. Whitman, if clothed with powers to prosecute cases of blackmail and extortion for which indictments have been found in nearly twenty counties of this state and to follow lines of evidence radiating from New York County that implicate state officials and powerful politicians, will thereby great political advantage. . . . He fails to see that by taking Mr. Whitman into camp the District Attorney would thereby be fighting under his banner and the glory of Glynn would be the glory of Glynn. . . . If the exposure of men in high places shall follow as a result of Mr. Whitman's efforts the public will recall this hostile statement of the Governor and it will inquire what may be his motive in making it.

A BLOT ON HIS RECORD.

From The New York Evening Post.
The question whether it was Whitman or Osborne who in the first instance suggested the appointment of the former as a Deputy Attorney General is of very little public interest. The emphasis placed by the Governor upon it, the exploitation of it as a weapon against the New York County District Attorney, and in general the expanding of what would naturally have been a brief and businesslike statement of his decision and the reasons for it into an angry political polemic have gone far to impair the feeling which the Governor's recently preceding acts and utterances had inspired.